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(12) **UK Patent Application** (19) **GB** (11) **2 204 236** (13) **A**
 (43) Application published 9 Nov 1988

(21) Application No 8710505

(22) Date of filing 2 May 1987

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(51) INT CL.
A61G 9/00

(52) Domestic classification (Edition J):
A4N 21

(56) Documents cited
GB 1410995 GB 1063536 GB 1031104
GB 1021831 US 4343053 US 3377631

(58) Field of search
A4N
Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class
A61G

(54) **Disposable bed pan**

(57) A liner constituting a disposable bedpan which is pressed or moulded from a fibrous material such as pulp or paper comprises a dished centre portion defined by flat bottom (1) and outwardly inclined side and end walls (2, 3), and flanges (4, 6) extending laterally and outwardly from the upper ends of the walls (2, 3), at least one of the flanges being foldable inwardly to mask the centre portion. Flanges (4) may be provided with lines of weakness (5) for the latter purpose, and also with downturned edges (7) which may function as handles after folding of flanges (4).

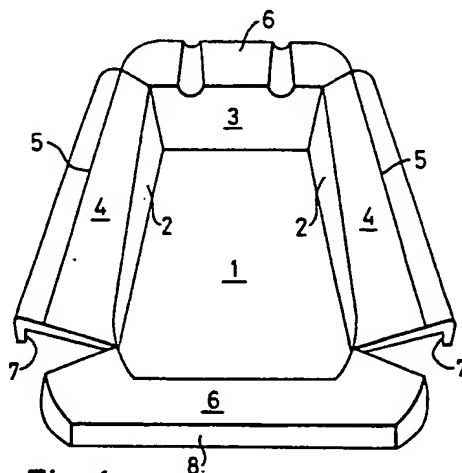


Fig. 1

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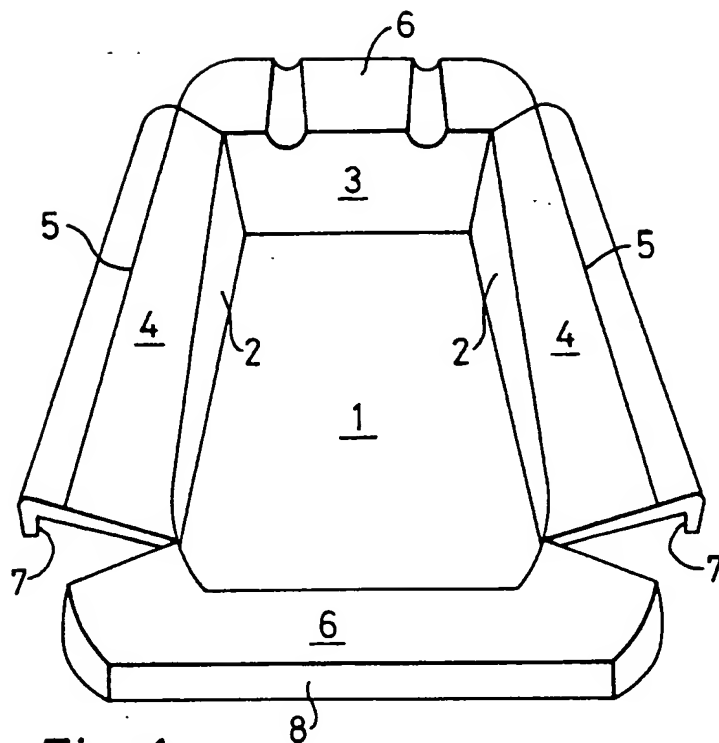


Fig. 1

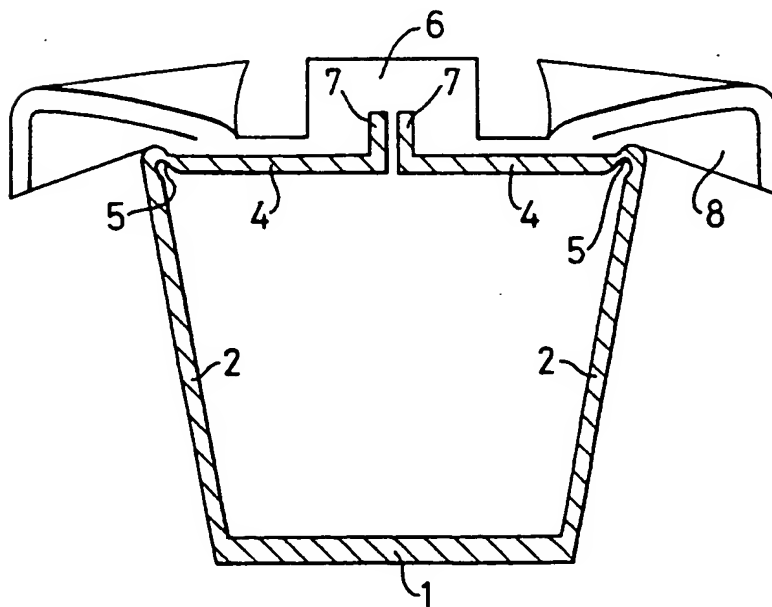


Fig. 2

LINERS

This invention relates to liners constituting disposable bedpans of the kind which are pressed or moulded from a fibrous material, such as cellulose pulp or paper, and which are intended to be disposed of in a hygienic manner after use by being disintegrated or pulverised in a waste disposal unit.

Heretofore, after use of the bedpan the bedpan was usually covered in some manner to avoid spillage of the contents.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a disposable bedpan which can be disposed of without having to cover the bedpan and contents first.

According to the present invention, a disposable bedpan of the kind referred to comprises an elongated dished centre portion defined by a substantially flat bottom and generally outwardly inclined side and end walls, and flanges extending laterally and outwardly from the upper ends of the side walls and the end walls, at least one of the flanges being foldable inwardly to mask the centre portion.

Preferably, both the flanges on the side walls are foldable inwardly to mask the centre portion.

Preferably also, there is a line of weakness where each side flange joins its associated side wall, whereby to enable the flanges to be folded inwardly without becoming detached from the side walls.

One embodiment of the invention will be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Fig. 1 is an isometric view of the disposable bedpan of the kind referred to with the centre portion unmasked.

Fig. 2 is a cross-section of the bedpan with the centre portion masked.

Referring to the drawings, the bedpan has an elongated dish-shaped centre part defined by a substantially flat bottom 1 and generally outwardly inclined side walls 2 and end walls 3.

5 Extending laterally outwards from the upper ends of the side walls 2 are flanges 4, there being a line of weakness 5 where each side flange 4 joins its associated side wall 2.

10 Extending laterally outwards from the upper ends of the end walls 3 are flanges 6.

Each flange 4, 6 is formed at its free edge with a downturned web 7, 8 for engagement by the fingers of a hand.

15 In practice, the flanges 4, 6 serve as a support for a person using the bedpan, which is located on a support (not illustrated) from which the bedpan is removed after use. After use of the bedpan, the side flanges 4 are, as shown in Fig. 2, folded inwardly along the lines of weakness 5 to serve as flaps masking
20 the centre part with the associated webs 7 abutting. This abutting relationship of the webs 7 assists in creating frictional restraint between the webs 7 to avoid the flaps disengaging and exposing the contents of the pan.

25 Also as shown in Fig. 2, the webs 7 may serve together as a lifting handle to enable the bedpan and contents to be lifted and removed for disposal and destruction substantially without spillage. Alternatively, the bedpan and contents may be lifted by inserting the
30 fingers of two hands under the webs 8 at the ends of the pan.

It will be understood that the advantages of the invention are that the bedpan may be closed and the contents masked after use simply by folding the flanges
35 4 inwardly until the webs 7 abut, and then lifted

either by using the webs 7 as a handle, or by gripping the webs 8 with the fingers.

CLAIMS

1. A liner constituting a disposable bedpan of the kind referred to, comprising an elongated dished centre portion defined by a substantially flat bottom and generally outwardly
5 inclined side and end walls, and flanges extending laterally and outwardly from the upper ends of the side walls and the end walls, at least one of the flanges being foldable inwardly to mask the centre portion. .
2. A liner as claimed in Claim 1 in which both the flanges
10 on the side walls are foldable inwardly to mask the centre portion.
3. A liner as claimed in Claim 1 in which there is a line of weakness where each side flange joins its associated side wall, whereby to enable the flanges to be folded inwardly without
15 becoming detached from the side walls.
4. A liner constituting a disposable bedpan of the kind referred to, substantially as herein described and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.